THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been established under AICTE Act, 1987 with a view for proper planning and co-ordinated development of the technical education system throughout the country, the promotion of qualitative improvements of such education in relation to planned quantitative growth and the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical education system.

As mandated by the AICTE Act, 1987, the Council lays down norms and standards in the field of technical education and insists on their fulfilment before granting approval to technical institutions/courses to ensure quality. The process of approval includes periodic inspections, appraisal of the inspection reports and conveying the deficiencies identified, including those relating to infrastructure, to the concerned institution for rectification. The respective State Governments and affiliating University are involved in the approval process. At present, sufficient number of institutes to impart technical education is available in the country.

Literacy rate

1460. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the absolute number of literates at all level between 1991 and 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the literacy rate grows to 64.8 per cent in 2001; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that two-third of the population in the 6-10 age group is attending school in the 11-13 age group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Census 2001, the literacy rate of the country has increased from 52.21% in 1991 to 64.84% in 2001. The number of literate persons has increased from 359.28 million in 1991 to 560.68 million in 2001, thus adding an additional 201.40 million literates in the country.

(c) As per the available information, the Gross Enrollment Ratio in Class I-V (6-11years) is 95.39 and that of Class VI-VIII (11-14 years) is 60.99.